fact that there are some other important items left in the agenda. I therefore assure the Hon'ble Mover and other Hon'ble Members of the House that early steps will be taken to implement a proper scheme of library expansion in rural areas.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon:- On the assurance of the Director of Public Instruction I by leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

Resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

9. Unemployment in the State.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— *"This Council recommends to the Government to take earnest and immediate steps to inquire into the extent of unemployment in the State and adopt adequate measures to combat the evils and dangers arising from it."*

Sir, the question of unemployment is before everybody. It has assumed definite shape in recent years. Because of the fact that it is assuming a very alarming proportion in recent years, it has become a problem of the hour. Wherever we go we find unemployment both among the educated and the uneducated. From among the educated people we find people running for employment and from the uneducated we find people in an increasing number coming to our houses. We also find that among able bodied persons the number has largely increased. It will be admitted that unemployment is increasing every day. Then the question is as to what we should do in the matter. I would admit that there is no courageous taking of the subject by the Government. Everybody admits that there is unemployment but nobody seriously thinks over it and nobody has tested as to what they should do in the matter. Now the time has come when we should courageously face the problem and find out some solution. All important national Governments in the world are trying to solve the problem in their own way. We may not be able to do that. But I submit that we can do these things in our own humble way. The solution will certainly be bound up with the advancement and prosperity of the ryots. We have to increase the cultivable area, by introducing scientific method of cultivation, providing more marketing facilities, encouraging cottage industries and organising other small scale industries and if possible large scale industries so we will be able to combat this evil. I find from the report of the economic survey of the three villages published that on an average 30 per cent are partially employed and between 10 to 15 per cent unemployed. The author of the report has also suggestions for the improvement of those particular villages. He has selected only villages here and there and the suggestions made by him will, if

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

worked in the proper spirit, tend to solve the problem to a great extent. That is why I advisedly used the words "earnest and immediate steps be taken" to combat this evil. If we earnestly and sincerely adopt the measures on the lines suggested by him—they are all very practicable—we will be able to solve our problem to a certain extent. My idea in moving this resolution in this House is to bring to the notice of the Government that this is an important question and that they cannot shelve it any further. If the Government do not take proper measures it will be a menace to the whole public. With these few words I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— I second this resolution. There is no necessity to make a long speech in such a self evident proposition. So the best thing for my Hon'ble friends is to strengthen the hands of the mover by a summary kind of voting. Just in passing I may make a remark that the usual excuse brought forth by the Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Bench, will be brought forward this time also. The Hon'ble Member for Revenue, while we were suggesting methods of combating unemployment on the lines of large scale state plan and key industries, when we put a question whether this method was feasible or practicable, answered that "it may or it may not." What I strongly complain is that this kind of evasive answers should not be given. I hope that earnest attempts will be made by the Government to bring this resolution to a practical working.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Mr. President, the Government are at one with both the Hon'ble Mover and the Hon'ble Seconder on the extreme importance of the problem. As the seconder put it the importance is self-evident. But what is not so self-evident is the remedy prescribed by the people who have to deal with the problem of unemployment. Reference was also made to one of my previous answers. In answer to a question whether large scale state industries would solve the problem of unemployment I believe I have sad that " it might or it might not " and it was thought that it was an evasive answer. I am just putting my aspect of the case whether it is an evasion or not. I said that industrialisation on a large scale might solve the problem of unemployment in a country which is predominantly and pre-eminently industrial. Ours is a country which is essentially agricultural. That is one thing. Then with respect to the starting point, there is a time and place to start large scale industries. Now we hear the cry that we are on the throes of an economic depression. I put it to the Hon'ble Members to consider whether this is the opportune moment to start trade on a large scale. I am referring to this because I should not be held

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

guilty of evasion. You have to look to the Finances of the State. You have to look to the population of the country in which you attempt it. I was not guilty of evasion. It was an honest difference of opinion. Then with respect to the various small-scale measures advocated by the Hon'ble the Mover which he thinks would solve the problem of unemployment, Government are glad to say that all the measures advocated by him are receiving their very earnest and serious attention. He said that the cultivable area should be increased. That is the precise thing that the Government are doing. They are giving large areas of reserved forests from year to year for cultivation. This thing is going on from year to year and large number of acres are being availed of for cultivation. Very recently the Royal Boon has also made it clear that even without a price small areas measuring 25 or 30 acres would be given to people without employment. We are assigning to them lands. With respect to marketing facilities the Government have appointed two marketing officers to consider this question. Without reference to the neighbouring centries we cannot do anything. Marketing requries the co-operation and co-ordination of others. There is a Provincial Marketing Board which is working under the instructions and directions of the Marketing Expert of the Government of India. Then with respect to the development of small scale cottage industries. The encouragement of cottage industries presupposes the possession of accurate materials as to what our cottage industries are and in what localities they will thrive. Now the possession of this material is one of the matters which we hope to accomplish when the economic survey report is published. The officer in charge has already published the report of three villages and he has dealt with coir, fishery and various other industries in those reports The Heads of Departments, as stated by the Diwan President, have been asked to submit concrete proposals to give effect to the recommendations contained in the survey report. So that all the things suggested by the Hon'ble Member are being considered earnestly and sincerely, but with respect to annihilating the unemployment problem at one stroke of the pen the Government must confess they are not in a position to formulate a feasible scheme.

Resolution was put and carried.

Concluding Remarks.

Mr. President:— I have to thank both the officials and non-officials for their hearty co-operation in the discharge of my duties.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar— May I, Sir, on behalf of the Official Members express our high appreciation of the great help that we have received from the Non-Officials during the last 11 days.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly